

FAOMRA Meeting
Nov. 14-15, 2002
Arlington, VA

Website

FAOMRA has a website that they are in the process of enhancing. Their vision is to have all the state licenser laws available through this site, create a database that would provide a census of all acupuncturists in the U.S. (currently the NCCAOM data base includes only NCCAOM Diplomats), and post disciplinary action regarding individuals that can be accessed by members only (i.e. State Licensing Boards).

There is currently the ability to "chat" through this website, though very few have taken advantage of it. A motion was passed at the meeting to hire an independent webmaster to work with the board officials to accomplish this task.

Licenser by Endorsement

FAOMRA is requesting states to accept licenser by endorsement so practitioners may move from state to state. With the current varying state laws this is always not possible, especially for senior practitioners who are not NCCAOM certified and attended schools/apprenticeships before programs were accredited. This could also become a concern for more practitioners as the testing models and state licenser laws change.

A committee was formed to create a draft proposal.

Modular Plan for Testing

The module concept was encouraged by FAOMRA several years ago and now is being used by the NCCAOM. Details under NCCAOM report.

Priorities of FAOMRA

A list of future accomplishments was developed with input from the attending state boards:

- Develop a **census** of the profession
- Provide **data analysis** of state regulations, i.e.) scope of practice
- Provide a list of approved **foreign schools**
- Provide a list of approved **continuing education** courses and the parameters for determining which courses are approved
- Provide a **disciplinary data base**
- Provide **legislative support** for states
- **Standardize titles**, i.e. L.Ac. , DOM etc.

Other Business

- Discussion of **FAOMRA's mission** to protect the public, not to promote the profession
- Research **CLEAR**, Committee for Licensure Enforcement and Regulation. A regulatory board for regulatory boards. Many boards send members, FAOMRA will consider sending a member
- NY and MA were approached by **OBT's (Oriental Bodywork Therapists)** to include them in the state acupuncture bill. They declined. One reason stated is that OBT's are required to obtain 500 hours of Oriental Medicine training, whereas acupuncturists receive a minimum of 1,350 hours.
- NY issue concerning **no-fault insurance**. Acupuncturists are treating up to 50 patients an hour with minimal treatment (i.e.) two needle) and billing insurance
- NY 's executive director is considering calling **continueing education** "continueing compctency law". In NY 30 hours of "learning activities may include various types of activites, including well documented study groups"
- **Honorary member** recognized: Glen Wilcox
- **Honorary member** nominated: Floyd Herdrich

NCCAOM Report

Presented by **Chris Hurley, CEO**

Betsy Smith is the liason between NCCAOM and FAMORA. She has resources about "recertification" modeled after the current medical accreditation of CEU's called ACCME

NCCAOM :

- Is currently in the process of creating **On-Line Support** so an individual can check their progress in the system (at times they get 1,000 phone calls a day)
- **Public Relations**
 - Created an AOM day
 - Pitcher Chris Benson and his surgeon spoke of Mr. Bensons' success using acupuncture, national TV coverage
 - Advertisement for acupuncture in major newspapers
 - National survey of consumer interest in acupuncture, will be covered in next newsletter
- **Job Analysis** of the profession. Preliminary results shared with FAOMRA. The main item discussed was the response that 91% of practitioners use herbs.
 - 33% have taken the NCCAOM herb test
 - About 85% of the schools offer OM degrees, 15% Acupuncture degrees

- **New Testing System**

- Modular testing system involves taking a series of tests over the course of study, simulating the medical model. After 1,350 hours of Oriental Medicine the OM module is tested, and then at the next level is Acupuncture and Points, the next is herbs after the appropriate classes have been completed. The cost would be less than the current cost of taking the separate acupuncture and herb tests.
- New Mexico would like to see a separate module for an optional higher level of testing biomedicine.

The overall response from FAOMRA was favorable to the current direction of the NCCAOM.

